

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College  
Course Content Summary**

**Course Prefix and Number:** GOL 106

**Credits:** 4

**Course Title:** Historical Geology

**Course Description:** Traces the evolution of the earth and life through time. Presents scientific theories of the origin of the earth and life and interprets rock and fossil record. Prerequisite: GOL 105 or equivalent. Lecture 3 hours. Laboratory 3 hours. Total 6 hours per week.

**General Course Purpose:** This course is designed to satisfy 4 credits of a laboratory science for the Science AS, Social Sciences AS, and Liberal Arts degree programs.

**Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:**

**Prerequisite:** GOL 105 or equivalent

**Course Objectives:**

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to

- a. Understand the concept of geologic time and age dating;
- b. Understand organic evolution and the fossil record;
- c. Understand the origin of Planet Earth and its atmosphere and oceans;
- d. Understand the physical and biological evolution of the planet through time; and
- e. Understand the importance of humankind's inheritance from Planet Earth and our responsibilities as stewards of the planet.

**Major Topics to Be Included:**

- a. Time, Fossils, and Evolution
- b. Relative and Absolute Dating
- c. Origin of Planet Earth, Cryptozoic History, and Early Life on the Planet
- d. The Paleozoic Era
- e. The Mesozoic Era and the Age of Reptiles
- f. The Cenozoic Era and the Age of Mammals
- g. The Pleistocene Epoch and the Evolution of Humans
- h. The Future of the Planet
- i. The Geology of Virginia

**Effective Date of Course Content Summary:** February 16, 2009